



Data Points

CWHHS

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

One way to reduce the number of deaths due to breast cancer is to detect the disease at an early, more treatable stage. While mammography is not always 100% accurate, it is an effective early-stage screening method which can detect a cancer up to several years before it can be felt on examination. The American Cancer Society and the California Department of Health Services recommend that women 40 years and older be regularly screened for breast cancer by having a clinical breast exam and a mammogram once a year.

Scientific research has shown that breast cancer mortality varies by race/ethnicity.^{1,2} It is therefore important to examine mammography among California women by racial/ethnic group in order to identify populations that need to be addressed by public health programs.

The 2000 California Women's Health Survey asked women if they ever had a mammogram, and how long it had been since they had their last mammogram. Respondents who ever had a mammogram could answer that their last

mammogram was within the past one, two, three, or five years, or over five years ago. The analysis is based on 2,273 women ages 40 and older participating in the survey. Women who reported being previously diagnosed with breast cancer (only 5% of all women surveyed who ever had a mammogram) were included.

- Fifty-three percent of Asian/Other women, 58% of Black women, and 59% of Hispanic women reported having a mammogram within the past year, while 63% of White women reported having a mammogram within the past year.
- Of women reporting ever having a mammogram, 65% of Asian/Other women, 67% of Black women, 68% of Hispanic women, and 68% of White women reported having their last mammogram within the past year (not shown in graph).

¹ O'Malley MS, Earp JAL, Hawley ST, Schell MJ, Mathews HF, Mitchell J. The association of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and physician recommendation for mammography: who gets the message about breast cancer screening? *American Journal of Public Health*. 2001;91:49-54.

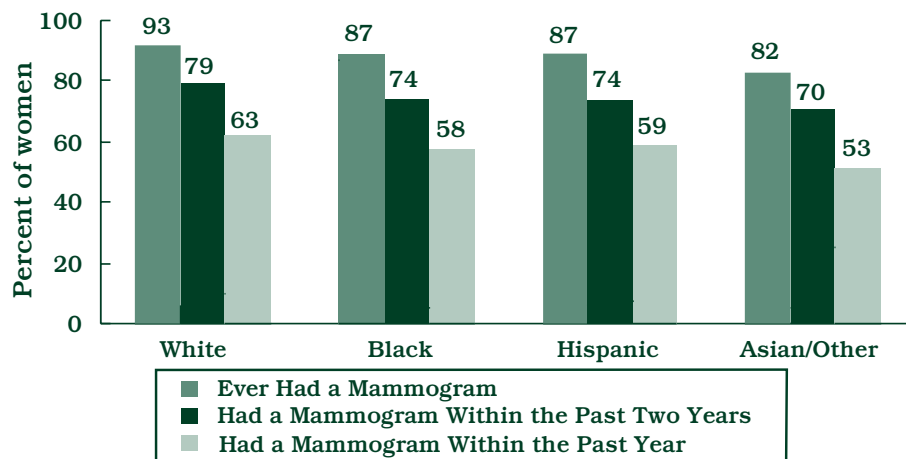
² American Cancer Society, California Division, and Public Health Institute, California Cancer Registry. *California Cancer Facts and Figures*, 2001. Oakland, CA: American Cancer Society, California Division, September 2000.

MAMMOGRAMS AMONG WOMEN AGES 40 AND ABOVE, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, CALIFORNIA, 2000

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Public Health Message:
Variations in breast cancer mortality by racial/ethnic group are noted in the literature. The data suggest that there are differences in regular mammography by different racial/ethnic groups. Messages for regular mammogram screening should target all women ages 40 years and above, in particular non-White populations.

Mammograms Among Women Ages 40 and Above,
by Race/Ethnicity, California, 2000



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